

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
General Certificate of Secondary Education

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (WORLD RELIGIONS) (SHORT COURSE) 2399/1
PAPER 9 – Jewish Studies

MARK SCHEME

Specimen Paper 2003

- 1 (a) Describe the customs of Rosh Hashanah. [8]**
Answers should include a clear description of the festival as the New Year, principal customs e.g. services in the synagogue, apples and honey, New Year greetings etc.
- (b) Explain how Yom Kippur might affect the life and beliefs of a Jew. [7]**
Candidates should consider the immediate effects: fasting for 25 hours, all-day services in the synagogue, communal confession of sins etc., as well as looking at long-term effects of preparation for annual event and how Jews might feel spiritually after the day.
- (c) 'Everyone should spend one day a year thinking about what they have done wrong.'**
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. [5]
Mark according to LoR. Look for quality of discussion.
- 2 (a) Describe the events of the Twentieth-Century Holocaust. [8]**
There is plenty of material here about the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust. Candidates might also comment on post-Holocaust events, the strength of the diaspora, establishment of the state of Israel, attitudes towards anti-semitism, post-holocaust theology etc.
- (b) Explain how the Twentieth-Century Holocaust continues to affect the lives of Jews today. [7]**
Candidates will probably deal with the effect on individuals, survivors, those who died and their families. Some may go on to consider post-holocaust ideas, State of Israel etc.
- (c) 'It is time to forget the Twentieth-Century Holocaust and forgive.'**
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [5]
Mark according to LoR. Likely responses are that Jews can neither forget because of the enormity of what happened, not forgive as only those murdered have the right to do that.
- 3 (a) Describe Kosher laws of as they apply to clothes and money. [8]**
Candidates may initially refer to Kosher as applied to food but here credit can only be given for the principle not the detail. What is needed is information on shatnez and also on the proper use of money.

- (b) Explain how keeping the Jewish food laws might affect the life of a believer. [7]**

Here is the opportunity to deal with food laws but again it is not the detail which is wanted but the way in which these serve as a reminder of serving G-d and also the question of separateness.

- (c) 'Judaism has too many rules for life today.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. [5]

Here it is clearly the quality of the discussion which is important and this should be assessed according to LoR. Be prepared for a diversity of responses.

- 4 (a) Describe the main features of a synagogue. [8]**

The keyword is not 'main' so look for accurate description of what the candidate considers to be important features, these may not necessarily be furnishing or architectural.

- (b) Explain how the synagogue is used to strengthen the Jewish community. [7]**

One simple way might be community worship but look also for the use of the synagogue as a meeting place, a place of teaching, religion school etc.

- (c) 'For Jews, the home is more important than the synagogue.'**

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different point of view. [5]

The answer is almost certainly 'yes', though be prepared for candidates to argue otherwise. Mark by LoR according to quality of discussion.

